January Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, January 10

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, January 10 and 11

Place:

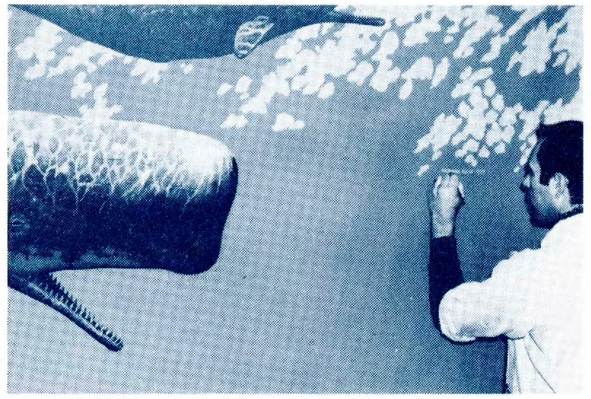
May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Richard Ellis

Subject:

"Adventures of a Whale Painter"



Richard Ellis and Friends

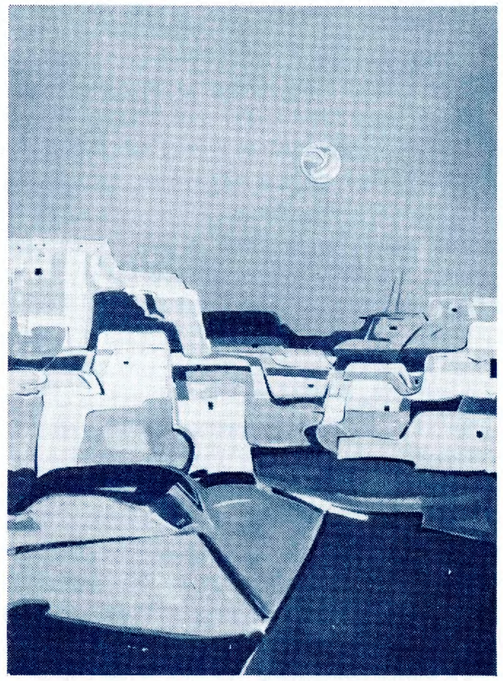
The Academy is kicking off 1979 in grand style with Richard Ellis, the country's foremost painter of marine natural history subjects, and his truly unique slide/lecture entitled, "Adventures of a Whale Painter". Ellis' paintings of the great whales, which originally appeared in Audubon magazine, are considered the most accurate and moving color portraits of whales ever painted. Reproductions of his paintings have appeared in numerous national magazines, including Scientific American, Oceans, Skin Diver and Reader's Digest. The originals hang in many private collections and institutions and he has been given one-man shows at such museums as South Street Seaport, The New Bedford Whaling Museum, Mystic Seaport and the American Museum of Natural History.

After the publication of his well-known "Book of Sharks" in 1975, Ellis began a new book on whales, porpoises and dolphins of the world, due out in late 1979. His research for the project took him to Scammon's Lagoon to see the gray whales, to Maui to see the "humpies", and to northern Quebec to film blues, fins, and belugas. Share his incredible experiences this month with "Adventures of a Whale Painter".

As usual, there will be three presentations of the monthly members' meetings. Please present your membership card at the main entrance to Cowell Hall for admission to the Academy. For the afternoon meeting you will be asked to present your card once more at the entrance to the auditorium. Bring the whole family to "Adventures of a Whale Painter"!

(See **Whale Week Plus** section in this "Newsletter" for information on Richard Ellis' whale drawing lessons!)

Special Exhibits



"Autumn Morning" by Dan Namingha

January 16 is the last day to see **Extensions of the Nampeyo Creative Spirit,** a collection of traditional and contemporary Hopi art featuring the paintings and sculpture of Dan Namingha, the 28 year old artist who has been hailed as "one of the youngest stars on the art horizon of the Southwest". The incredible colors in Dan's paintings seem to be taken directly from the electric blue sky and from the rich desert hues of his native land and applied to the canvas with a unique and startling style.

One such work, shown above, is available from the Academy in exhibition poster form. The cost is $8.50 including tax (add $2.00 for mailing and handling charge). A full color catalogue is also available for $4.00 including tax (add $1.00 for mail orders please). Posters and catalogues are available at the Academy's information desk or order by mail. Send your check to the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118, ATTN: Namingha.

Man in Essence, an exhibition of photographs and art from aboriginal Irian by Laurens Hillhouse opens on January 15 in the Atholl McBean Gallery. In this exhibit the people of West New Guinea, the Asmat or "Real Men", are the focus. In this vast primordial swampland where animal life must be armored, camouflaged or cunning to survive, where the earth permanently remains in its infancy, incredibly, here people live.

The truly remarkable photographs taken by Laurens Hillhouse, combined with the beautiful art and artifacts he collected over the years in Irian, will give you an intimate look at life in this remote part of the world.

Several of our scientific research departments, as well as our excellent exhibits department, have been asking for volunteers, particularly those with some office or secretarial background. If you would be interested in volunteering a few hours of your time, please contact Francis Reed in the Development Office at the Academy. She will fill you in on details and try to match your interests with our needs. Call her at 221-5100, Ext. 237.

MAN'S EARLIEST ART AND ARTIFACTS EXAMINED IN "THE HAND OF MAN: ORIGINS OF ART AND CULTURE"

The Leakey Foundation in conjunction wtih the California Academy of Sciences will present a two-day Symposium at the Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco, on February 17 and 18, 1979, entitled, **"The Hand of Man: Origins of Art and Culture".**

Ten eminent specialists including Alexander Marshack, coordinator of the **Ice Age Art** exhibit (opening at the Academy on February 17), Lewis Mumford, Phillip Tobias, Desmond Clark, Jacquetta Hawkes and several others will examine the historical background and new evidence concerning man's earliest expression through art and artifacts.

Academy members will be receiving an information brochure detailing this outstanding event later this month. If you would like to reserve tickets now, call the Leakey Foundation Office, located at the California Academy of Sciences, at 752-4642. Tickets for two full days will be $75.00 each, or $40.00 student price.

Whale Week Plus

January is the time of year when California's beloved marine mammal, the gray whale, is heading south to the warm waters of Baja California where mating and calving occur. In honor of this anual 8,000 mile migration from Alaska to Baja, the Academy offers a week plus of whale events!

Thursday, January 4
Pheena, the 50-foot sculpture of a fin whale by General Whale arrives to loll around the front steps of the Academy. (Note to jungle-gym enthusiasts: Pheena loves to be climbed on!)

Saturday, January 6:
Beginning at 10:30 a.m. whale films and lectures will be given in the Morrison Auditorium throughout the day . . . free of charge, of course!

Tuesday, January 9:
One of two whale watching trips offered! To see a 45-foot animal move gracefully through the water, sound, then reappear a little further south on his way to Baja, is a moving and wonderful experience. Dress warmly and join other Academy members for this journey with the gray whales. Vessel leaves Half Moon Bay for a 3-hour trip. Cost: $7.50 per person. Call the Education Office at the Academy to reserve space. Limited to 49 people.

Wednesday and Thursday, January 10 & 11:
Members' Meeting with Richard Ellis and his slide lecture, "Adventures of a Whale Painter".

Saturday, January 13:
From 1 to 2 p.m., Richard Ellis will hold a whale drawing art class in the Wattis Hall of Man. Bring your drawing pads and pencils for this very personal art lesson with the country's foremost painter of marine subjects.

Sunday, January 14:
Second of two whale watching trips! 69 Academy members will board the good ship "Celestial" in San Francisco for a close look at the migrating gray whales. Bring your lunch and bundle up for this full-day adventure. Cost is $20.00 per person. Call the Education Office today to reserve space for you and your family! Telephone (415) 221-5100.

Monday, January 15:
Dr. Roger Payne, noted research zoologist with the New York Zoological Society will present his slide/tape presentation on humpback, right and fin whales entitled, "Voices in the Sea: Communication Among Whales", at 8:00 p.m. in the Zellerbach Auditorium in Berkeley. This very special evening with Dr. Payne is sponsored by the Oceanic Society in cooperation with the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation and SUPERB. Tickets are $3.50 for adults, $2.50 for students and $4.00 at the door. Advance tickets are available through all BASS outlets or at the Cal Box Office located in the Student Union Building at U.C. Berkeley.

Saturday, January 20:
Steve King, Program Director for General Whale, will present an informal slide presentation using photos and models of some of the sculptures which have become so famous. (Sandy, the gray whale, and Pheena the fin whale are names you probably know.) Learn how an idea becomes a life-size whale sculpture in the Wattis Hall of Man from 1 to 3 p.m.

Morrison Planetarium

Opening January 5 at the Morrison Planetarium is the daily sky show, **Planetary Odyssey,** a flight through our solar system. There is a world of perpetual night, a world bombarded with sulphuric acid rains and interminable clouds, and another planet whose core is hotter than the surface of the sun! Journey from the mysterious cliffs of the inferno-planet Mercury, out to the frozen wastelands of distant Pluto in **Planetary Odyssey.**

You can see **Planetary Odyssey** each Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. or on weekends at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30. Evening shows are each Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30.

Laserium

Experience "The Best of Laserium", the cosmic laser light concert each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Morrison Planetarium where vivid color images are set dancing to music against a background of stars. Join the more than 3 million spectators who have seen Laserium each Friday at 7:30, 9:00 or 10:30; Saturday at 5:00, 7:30, 9:00 or 10:30; and Sunday at 5:00, 7:30 or 9:00 p.m. Advance tickets are available through all BASS outlets and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Admission to all performances is $3.25. Members are reminded that this is not a regular planetarium attraction nor are your membership passes usable for this attraction. Call 752-4264 for more information on "The Best of Laserium".

Education and Travel Notes

Ames Research Center
Wednesday, February 7
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

To repeat another popular members' mid-week tour we will visit the NASA Center for an informative guide through their Life Sciences buildings as well as a 1-hour bus tour of their entire grounds of fascinating facilities. The chartered bus will depart from the Academy at noon and return about 5:00 p.m. Advance reservations are required. $7 per person, members only.

Bodega Bay and Birds
Saturday, February 24

Another of our popular annual trips, planned as a one-day visit to Bodega Bay to observe the great variety and populations of migrating and over-wintering water-fowl. Birding experience is not necessary, there is enjoyment for everyone! Dr. John Arnold will be resident-expert and guide. We'll leave from the Academy at 8 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. $15 members, $20 non-members.

Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo Point
Thursday, February 22

Three groups of 20 each can be accommodated on the ranger-led Ano Nuevo Point hike to see and learn about the famous elephant seals in residence there. We'll leave the Academy by chartered bus at 11:30 a.m., returning at about 5:00 p.m. It is a good hike of about three miles round trip, through sand (or mud, if it rains), so come prepared. $9 per person, members only. Advance reservations required.

Exploring the Universe
March 6 — May 8
10 Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

A repeat of this popular introductory course in astronomy to survey our solar system and beyond. We will study such phenomena as pulsars, black holes, galaxies, quasars, UFO's and the search for extraterrestrial life. Several sessions will be held in the Morrison Planetarium Sky Theater and there will be one feld trip to a local observatory. Taught by Dr. Lee Simon, Director of the Morrison Planetarium. $30 for indivduals; $45 for families (non members add $10).

Travel Photography
February 26-April 2 (six Mondays)
7:00-9:30 p.m.

This course emphasizes the practical techniques and special problems encountered while traveling with a camera. We will deal with a host of practical issues ranging from trip preparation, insurance, equipment selection and customs regulations to editing results when you return home. Each session is accompanied by a slide presentation from a different area of the world with discussion of camera technique and visual possibilities inherent in new and strange environments. Taught by Monte Hartman. Members $30, non-members $40.

Cold-blooded Vertebrates: Their Care and Maintenance
February 20-April 10 (eight Tuesdays)
7:00-9:30 p.m.

For those wishing to set-up an aquarium or terrarium of their own, this course will examine the types of equipment available to the hobbyist as well as their use for the essential purpose of proper environmental control. We will learn how to develop and provide the necessary habitat, including different foods and feeding requirements. Also, basic information will be given for disease diagnosis and treatment of fishes, reptiles and amphibians. Special emphasis will be given to the needs of freshwater and marine fishes and invertebrates. Taught by Al Castro, Aquarist for the Steinhart Aquarium. $30 members, $40 non-members.

Hawaiian Islands
March 16-25

Volcanoes, humpback whales and tropical vegetation are study topics that are intermingled in a fascinating 10-day tour of Kaui, Hawaii, and Maui. This Hawaiian adventure will be led by geologist, Charles Chesterman and the cost is $650, plus airfare. For information call Nature Expeditions International at (415) 328-6572.

Guatemala & Honduras
March 31-April 19

The emphasis of this fascinating trip will be on the natural history, native culture and Mayan sites of Guatemala and Honduras. The tour will be led, for the third time, by Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr. Added to this intinerary will be a visit to Copan in Honduras, one of the oldest sites of Mayan civilization. Approximate cost, $2200. For information call Gulliver's Travel at (415) 346-4400.

Advance Notice of Monthly Meetings
February 14 and 15:

A. Warren Larson and his film, **Jeepers, Creepers!** Bay Area and backyard biology of the insect world.

New Members of the Academy

Regular Members

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Mr. Charles Albert
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Amado
Mr. Charles W. Armstrong
Bo Ayes & Denis Davis
Mr. Walter Bajor
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Barclay
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Mr. & Mrs. Hal Brandes
Mr. & Mrs. A. Jay Bruch
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Mr. R. Max Butler
Kaa Byington
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Mr. John Elsesser
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